

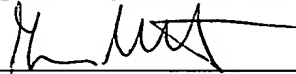
**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to include a reference to prior application Ser. No. 09/736,246, filed on December 15, 2000, as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2). No new matter was introduced by these amendments to the Specification.

Claims 2-8 have been canceled and claims 9 and 10 have been added. The application now contains claims 1 and 9-10. Allowance of the application is respectfully solicited.

Dated: January 16, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Gianni Minutoli

Registration No.: 41,198

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorney for Applicants